

U.S. APPLN NO. 10/009,959
AMENDMENT A

ATTY DOCKET 3827.088

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated April 5, 2006, the Examiner allowed Claims 27-32, and rejected Claims 14, 18, 21, 23-24, 26 and 33-34.

Claims 15-17, 19, 20, 22 and 25, were merely objected to on the sole ground that they were dependent upon a rejected base claim.

By this response, Applicants incorporate allowable subject matter into all claims, and more specifically amending the specification for consistency and amend Claims 14, 16, 19, 20, 21 & 25, and cancel Claims 15, 22, 24, 33 & 34, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Specification

As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended page 3, line 6 and page 4, paragraph 0007, so that the unit for thickness is mm rather than N/mm². Accordingly, no new matter is added by the present amendment.

Amendments to the Claims

The present amendments merely convert previously existing dependent claims into independent form or combine a dependent claim into the parent independent claim. Thus, no new matter is presented.

Claim Objections - Claims 33 & 34

The objection is moot, because these claims are cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, Claims 14, 18, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 33-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

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over Van Bers (US 5,564,251) in view of Whitacre (US 5,255,482) and further in view of Schultheis et al. (US 5,584,957).

Amended Claim 14 has objected dependent Claim 15 incorporated into it and amended Claim 21 has objected dependent Claim 22 incorporated into it. Thus, amended Claims 14 and 21 are now be drawn to subject matter previously deemed allowable.

Amended Claims 16, 19, 20, and 25, have been converted to independent form by including the limitations of their respective base claims. Thus, amended Claims 16, 19, 20 & 25, are now drawn to subject matter previously deemed allowable.

Claims 17, 18, are allowable in view of their dependency on amended Claim 14. Claims 23 and 26 are allowable based on their dependency on allowable claims 21 and 25, respectively.


The remaining rejected claims, 24, 33 & 34 have been cancelled. Thus, Applicants believe all pending claims to be allowable in both form and subject matter.

Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. No additional fee is believed to be due for submission of this Response; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment in fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0951. Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMANN SENTERFITT

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